

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 /107 W

-----088743 131243Z /41

R 121255Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4704

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, ECIN, OAU, XY, GV, NI

SUBJECT: OBASANJO'S VISIT TO GUINEA

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL OBASANJO'S VISIT TO GUINEA WAS MARKED BY HIS AND SEKOU TOURE'S EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN REGIONALISM -- ECOWAS -- AND FOR ALL-AFRICAN COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY OAU. IT APPEARS THAT GON DID NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO ANY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN GUINEA. END SUMMARY.

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2. NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE'S VISIT TO GUINEA SEPTEMBER 6-8, WHICH REPAID SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT TO NIGERIA THIS PAST MAY, IS PART OF LT. GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO'S AMBITIOUS SCHEDULE FOR VISITING ECOWAS MEMBER STATES. GUINEANS PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS OF THEIR LIMITED CEREMONIAL MACHINERY TO GIVE OBASANJO WARMEST POSSIBLE WELCOME.

IN HIS REMARKS, NOTABLE ONLY FOR THEIR MODERATION AND MADE AT START OF BIG SHOW IN STADIUM (WHICH WAS PACKED WITH PARTY "MILITANTS"), PRESIDENT TOURE INCLUDED APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF OBASANJO AS HEAD OF MOST POPULOUS AFRICAN STATE AND AN ECOWAS LEADER.

3. GENERAL OBASANJO STARTED OUT HIS OWN SPEECH WITH REQUEST FOR TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THOSE KILLED IN AIR GUINEA CRASH SEPTEMBER 3 (CONAKRY 1650 AND 1680, BOTH NOTAL). (NOTE: REPORT OF TRAGEDY WAS NOT CARRIED BY GUINEAN MEDIA UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS LATER; THIS SEGMENT OF OBASANJO REMARKS CUT OUT OF LOCAL REBROADCAST). OBASANJO, AFTER GIVING DUE CREDIT TO TOURE'S ROLE IN AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, MOVED TO DISCUSSION OF DIVISIONS EXISTING IN AFRICA BECAUSE OF IMPORTED IDEOLOGIES -- "UNADULTURATED FOREIGN CONCEPTS DERIVED FROM ALIEN EXPERIENCES." SOME HAD COMMITTED ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO SOCIALISM FROM ABROAD. "ON THE OTHER HAND, THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN PERSUADED OF THE VIRTUES OF CAPITALISM HAVE TOO READILY LENT OURSELVES TO THE INTRIGUES OF PUPPET-MASTERS WHO INCITE US TO THE DANGERS OF ANYTHING THAT IS RED." AFRICANS MUST USE THEMSELVES AS STARTING POINT IN ALL THEIR UNDERTAKINGS. THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR "UNEVEN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS REMAINS BASICALLY UNCHANGED ... (AS) TRADING POSTS WHICH SUPPLY PRIMARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTS WHOSE EXCHANGE VALUE IS CONTROLLED BY OTHERS FOR PROCESSED GOODS WHICH ENJOY AN INCREASINGLY APPRECIATING EXCHANGE VALUE". PROGRESS IN AFRICA IS TOO OFTEN LIMITED TO SMALL ENCLAVES OF MODERNITY WITHIN THE MASS UNDERDEVELOPED, TRADITIONAL SOCIETY. OBASANJO CALLED FOR NEW BREAKTHROUGHS OF COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGE ACROSS OLD COLONIAL BOUNDARIES. HIS SPECIAL MESSAGE TO TOURE APPEARED TO BE HIS COMMENDING THE RESORT TO "HEROIC FLEXIBILITY WHICH IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO FREE (THE SPIRIT OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE) FROM THE BONDAGE OF EXTERNAL IDEAS, FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND ALLOW IT TO (CARRY AFRICANS) TO A QUALITATIVELY SATISFYING LIFE WHERE SUSTENANCE, SHELTER, EDUCATION AND HEALTH WILL NEITHER BE GUARANTEED ONLY TO A FEW NOR BE THE DAILY CONCERN OF THE MANY".

4. IN ADDITION TO HOLDING PRIVATE TALKS WITH TOURE, OBASANJO VISITED BAUXITE CENTERS KAMSAR AND FRIA. HE WAS SUBJECTED TO TWO LONG EVENINGS OF GUINEAN CULTURAL OFFERINGS, MUCH OF WHOSE ART TOOK SECOND PLACE TO BLATANT POLITICAL MESSAGES. JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED SEPTEMBER 8 SAID LEADERS HAD NOTED INCREASING BILATERAL ECONOMIC

COOPERATION AND DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR GREATER COOPER-
ATION IN FUTURE, INCLUDING NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN
DABOLA BAUXITE PROJECT (SEE CONAKRY A-22, NOTAL). THERE
WAS NO GON COMMITMENT, HOWEVER, EVEN ON THE SCORE
OF INVOLVEMENT IN DABOLA UNDERTAKING. SIGNATORIES REAF-
FIRMED "TOTAL SUPPORT" FOR ECOWAS; THEY SPECIFIED THEIR
COMMITMENT TO SETTLE ISSUES OF ECOWAS STAFF AND FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTORS AND GAVE TOP PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN ECOWAS COMMUNITY,
WHICH THEY SAID REPRESENTED NUCLEUS FOR AN AFRICAN COMMON
MARKET. ON SUBJECT OF AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE, TWO
LEADERS SAW NEED FOR OAU MEMBER STATES TO ASSUME GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY THAN IN PAST. ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION,
THEY SAID ONLY NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED
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ON EQUITY COULD BRING PEACE AND SECURITY.
THOMPSON

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